

Submitted: May 21, 2009  
Approved: May 21, 2009

**CITY OF ROCKVILLE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

Thursday, April 16, 2009  
Meeting No. 3-2009

Historic District Commissioners present: Max van Balgooy (Chair), Craig Moloney, Janet Hunt McCool, Anita Neal Powell, Jeremy Tucker

Staff present: Robin Ziek, Preservation Planner; Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning

**V. Evaluation for Significance**

**A. HDC2009-00456 - 224 Elizabeth Avenue**

Applicant: Iglesia De Dios (Pastor Rodriguez)

Address: 900 Westmore Avenue

Request: Demolition

Staff Ziek made a brief presentation on the proposed demolition. Commissioner Moloney is the project architect and he left the room for this Evaluation. The applicant has submitted a Demolition Permit, and under the new Zoning Ordinance, all Demolition Permits will be brought to the HDC for review as an Evaluation of Historic Significance. Staff noted that the building is considered a Contributing Resource in the Lincoln Park Conservation District, and was associated with the cultural history of Lincoln Park. In an evaluation for historic designation, however, the property must be considered on its own merits. Staff reviewed a brief history, noting that the property was sold by the original developer, Mr. H. L. England, twenty years after the original subdivision. The ground has poor drainage, and this is likely the only house built here. Staff included a title search showing the chronology of owners. Staff noted that the house was a vernacular mid-20<sup>th</sup> century structure that had been altered and lacked integrity.

Ms. Anita Summerour, of 715 Douglass Avenue, spoke of the early history of the building. It was originally a smaller building facing Frederick Avenue and was moved to this site. She doesn't want to see a parking lot built here instead of a private home.

Pastor Rodriguez spoke about the Church's plans to expand their after-school program, to provide food and programs for local children. They plan to remodel the existing church and will need additional parking.

Commissioner Tucker thought that the building might meet Criteria C (exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage) and D (has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics).

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Commissioner Powell asked for more information, based on its association with significant local residents, including Robert L. Snowden (Snowden's Funeral Home) and Rupert G. Curry (the first African-American to serve on the Rockville City Council). She noted that Mr. Snowden's daughter, Irene, married Mr. Curry.

Commissioner McCool asked if there are other structures associated with Mr. Curry?

Commissioner Powell also noted that the Payton family still lives in Lincoln Park.

The HDC agreed to postpone a recommendation, pending further information.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Powell moved that the HDC delay their recommendation and requests further information. Commissioner McCool seconded.

**VOTE:** 4-0-0 Approved; Commissioner Moloney absent